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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CLOSED MEAT PLANTS. . . . Gayle Armstrong, Deputy Administrator of PMA, is acting as Secretary Anderson's agent in operating the more than 100 closed meat-packing plants for the Department. He and a staff of assistants will operate from the Chicago USDA offices. Official seizure notices to the plants and unions involved were sent out Friday.

FOOD SUBSIDIES. . . . On June 23 the Office of Stabilization announced that a major portion of the subsidy program would be retained at least until June 30. This is an alteration in the program for ending wartime food subsidies announced by OSA on November 9. "The Policy of making termination of subsidies subject to general stabilization of the cost of living which underlies these statements [of November 9] still governs the subsidy removal program," Stabilization Administrator Collet stated in OSA Press Release 11 announcing alteration of the program. "It now appears that this policy will require the continuation of major food subsidies beyond next June. Congress is being requested to authorize payment of subsidies for the fiscal year 1947," he continued.

President Truman in his message to Congress on January 21 recommended that food subsidies be continued beyond June 30, 1946 in order to prevent inflation. He said, "If we fail to take this necessary step, meat prices on July 1 will be 3 to 5 cents higher than their average present levels; butter will be at least 12 cents a pound higher, in addition to the 5 cents a pound increase of last fall; milk will increase from 1 to 2 cents a quart; . . . In terms of percentages we may find the cost-of-living index for food increased by more than 8 percent, which in turn would result in more than a 3-percent increase in the cost of living." The President emphasized the fact that none of us like subsidies but that they are essential for the time being.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . January 21, both Houses received the President's combined budget and State-of-the-Union message; Jan. 22, the House passed a bill increasing penalties for over-quota tobacco and giving the Secretary the right to reduce tobacco quotas; the House Banking and Currency Committee reported a bill to authorize subsidies on 1946 crops; the House Appropriations Committee reported the independent offices appropriation bill.

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FS REPORT. . . . The 1945 report of the Chief of the Forest Service emphasizes "the importance of forestry in our national goal of full employment for the future." The title is "Forests and Employment," page 35.

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SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR FARMERS. . . . Critical materials and equipment essential to farmers will be included in a new series of site sales to be inaugurated by the War Assets Corporation in the immediate future, according to Surplus Property Administration Release No. 209. The materials include wood products, lighting fixtures, tools, paint and other badly needed building and construction equipment. This announcement was made at the first meeting of the Agriculture Policy Committee on January 22. The committee is made up of SPA and USDA officials and Assistant Secretary Brannan is chairman. It was established by the two agencies to assist them in carrying out mutual responsibilities for establishing policies designed to foster the distribution of surplus property in rural areas to farmers and farmers' cooperative associations.

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INDUSTRIAL FEEDING. . . . With the war over and the demand for record-breaking industrial production lessened, PMA is emphasizing industrial feeding as "an additional market for farm products." The Department has adopted a program of assistance to organizations which plan to install or expand employee feeding facilities. USDA specialists will help plan the physical layout and design for new or expanded employee feeding services and give advice about equipment and food handling. USDA will furnish information on the preparation of food, proper cooking, menus based on available foods and stressing "abundant" ones, and help promote better eating habits for workers.

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RADIO - FEBRUARY 2. . . . NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, NBC, 1:00 p.m., EST. Up-to-the-minute summary for farmers of news developments in the USDA; five-minute feature entitled "Department of Agriculture Headlines."

AMERICAN FARMER, ABC, 12:30 p.m., EST. Features USDA's weekly report for farmers called "The Business Side of Farming."

CONSUMER TIME, NBC, 12:15 p.m., EST. "The Farmer Reports to the Nation." The broadcast will pick up from Denver, with NBC's Denver Farm Director Hal Renolett interviewing a cattle rancher; then will switch to Chicago, where NBC's Everett Mitchell will talk to a corn-hog farmer, and then to New York, with Don Lerch, Rural Farm Director for NBC, New York, talking to a poultry producer. Consumers will get a picture of the nation's food situation and agricultural production goals from farmers themselves.

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SECRETARY ANDERSON is scheduled to speak February 1 at a meeting of the Association of Cotton Textile Merchants in New York. He will discuss prospects of cotton textiles. On February 5, the Secretary will speak at the annual convention of the National Cannery Association at Atlantic City on full employment and what it would mean to agriculture and total food consumption.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS. . . . Of agriculture, President Truman's state-of-the-union and budget message said (1) we still have the problem of supplying enough food; during the next few months the need for food in the world will be more serious than at any time during the war; (2) the record shows that the people of this country want and need more food if only they have the jobs and purchasing power. . . the first essential in providing fully for the welfare of agriculture is to maintain full employment and a high level of purchasing power throughout the nation; (3) the Government intends to make good on its price support commitments with realistic consideration for the sound patterns of production that will contribute most to the long-time welfare of agriculture and the whole nation; (4) long-range objectives are to assure the people on the farms a fair share of the national income and to encourage an agricultural production pattern best fitted to the nation's needs; (5) what we seek ultimately is a high level of food production and consumption that will provide good nutrition for everyone; (6) wherever purchasing power fails to reach the level at which all groups can buy full diets at market prices, we should see that they have some means of getting adequate food at prices in line with their ability to buy. . . . we should have available supplementary programs that will enable all our people to have enough of the right kind of food. . . one of the best contributions toward building a stronger, healthier nation would be a permanent school-lunch program on a scale adequate to assure every school child a good lunch at noon.

Legislation recommended by the President of direct or indirect interest to agriculture and USDA employees includes the following:

- Extension of crop insurance
- Continuation of food subsidies beyond June 30, 1946
- A permanent school-lunch program
- Continuance of price control until June 30, 1947
- Inclusion of agricultural workers under Social Security
- Full-employment legislation
- A scientific-research agency
- Increased salaries for Government employees (except those established by wage boards)
- A national inventory of natural resources (including lands, forests, and minerals)
- The national housing bill
- A health and medical-care program

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SCS MOVIE. . . . Prints of the SCS movie "Snow Harvest" will be available in the near future through the seven regional SCS offices or from the Department's Motion Picture Service in Washington. This movie depicts snow surveying by the Department to determine the amount of water that will be available from the stored mountain snow in the Northwest. It has considerable informational and entertainment appeal for people in all sections of the country although it was designed primarily for use in the Northwest. "Snow Harvest" is in color, with sound effect, is about 2½ reels in length and is available in 16 mm. prints.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL INTEREST. . . . Looking ahead with cotton--139; Canned fruits and vegetables supply estimates announced--141; Jan. 1 stock of merchantable potato stock 13.4 million bushels above average--147; Agriculture Department will approve cotton linters boards under Cotton Standards Act--149; World Affairs and the Farmer (Eric Englund of OFAR at London, Ontario, Canada--153; Postwar Progress (C. W. Kitchen before Fruit and Vegetable Association, Chicago, Ill.)--154; U. S.-U. K. wheat and rice discussions-how to make the most of world supplies--157; Horace T. Herrick named assistant to BAIC Chief, G. E. Hilbert to direct northern laboratory--158; Rutin ready for commercial production--162; Attitude of rural people toward radio services--163.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Wholesalers not permitted to sell butter to consumers at retail prices--OPA-6197; Increased retail ceilings result from cheddar cheese subsidy termination--OPA-6208; OPA to investigate slaughterers in drive to reduce black market sales of meat--OPA-6210; Statement clarifying notice of proposed cotton ceilings.

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NEW FARM SAFETY OFFICERS. . . . Wallace C. Crozer of the Office of Labor was made Chairman of the USDA Safety Council and Bennett P. Stiles of FS was made Vice-Chairman, at a meeting of the Council January 23. Agnes Dissette of FSA will continue as Secretary. John H. Wetzel, former Chairman of the Council, will continue as a member of the Correlating Committee, the membership of which remains the same.

Sidney Williams, Assistant to the President of the National Safety Council, spoke at the meeting as a consultant on safety measures for USDA employees. This was in line with the recent White House appointment of a committee to look into safety measures that are being carried on in the various Government agencies. Plans are being made to enlist the cooperation of all USDA employees in Washington and in the field in promoting safety.

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RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS Cotton Quality Statistics, United States, 1944-45, CS-15, 62 p.; Public Improvements for Your Community, AIS-38, 8 p.; Looking Ahead with Cotton, Some Trends and Some Choices, Misc. Pub. No. 584, 22 p.; Seven Steps to Help You Face the Future with Cotton, AIS-41, 8-page folder; Natural Replacement of Weed Hosts of the Beet Leafhopper as Affected by Rodents, Circ. No. 739, 48 p.

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